GOLD KEY

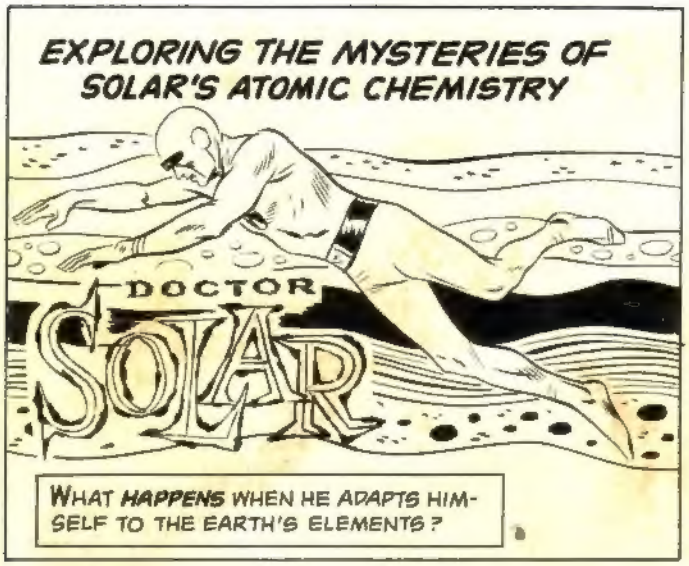
SOLAR

12c

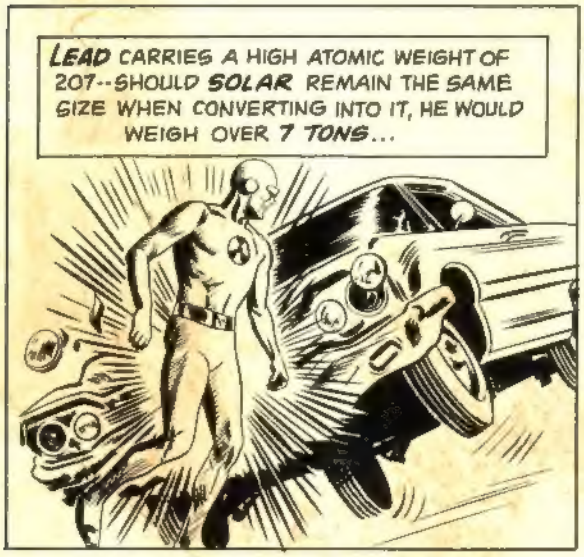
10000-612
DECEMBER

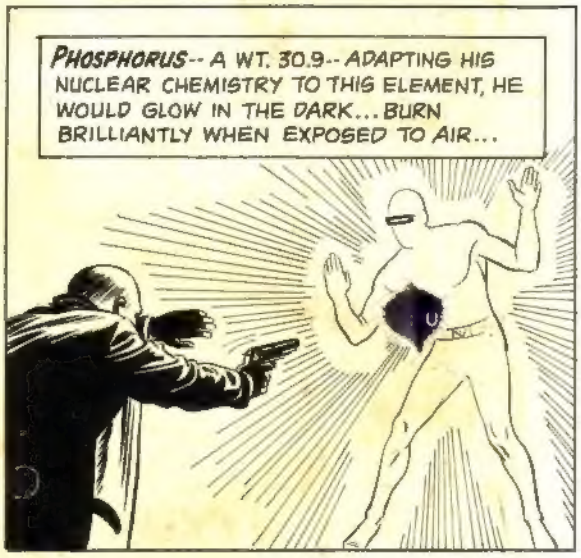
DOCTOR SOLAR MAN OF THE ATOM

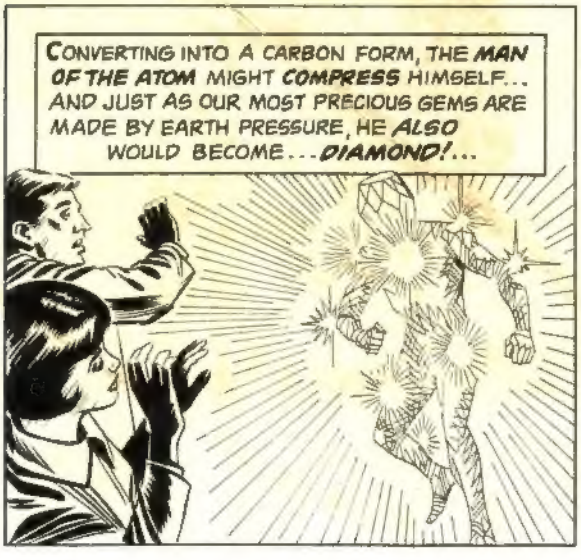
INVASION OF THE ROBOT SCORPIONS!

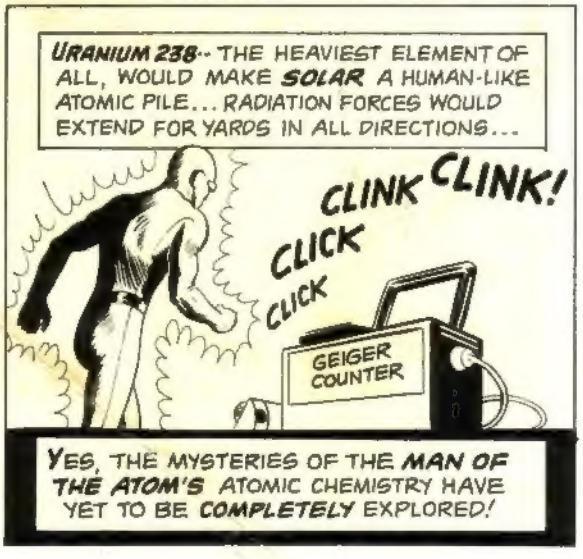

EXPLORING THE MYSTERIES OF SOLAR'S ATOMIC CHEMISTRY
DOCTOR
SOLAR
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE ADAPTS HIMSELF TO THE EARTH'S ELEMENTS?

HYDROGEN, WITH AN ATOMIC WEIGHT OF 1, WOULD SPREAD THE MAN OF THE ATOM'S 180 POUNDS OF NORMAL WEIGHT OVER VAST AREAS AS A GASEOUS FORM...


LEAD CARRIES A HIGH ATOMIC WEIGHT OF 207--SHOULD SOLAR REMAIN THE SAME SIZE WHEN CONVERTING INTO IT, HE WOULD WEIGH OVER 7 TONS...


PHOSPHORUS-- A WT. 30.9-- ADAPTING HIS NUCLEAR CHEMISTRY TO THIS ELEMENT, HE WOULD GLOW IN THE DARK... BURN BRILLIANTLY WHEN EXPOSED TO AIR...


CONVERTING INTO A CARBON FORM, THE MAN OF THE ATOM MIGHT COMPRESS HIMSELF... AND JUST AS OUR MOST PRECIOUS GEMS ARE MADE BY EARTH PRESSURE, HE ALSO WOULD BECOME... DIAMOND!...


URANIUM 238-- THE HEAVIEST ELEMENT OF ALL, WOULD MAKE SOLAR A HUMAN-LIKE ATOMIC PILE... RADIATION FORCES WOULD EXTEND FOR YARDS IN ALL DIRECTIONS...
CLINK CLINK!
CLICK
CLICK
GEIGER COUNTER
YES, THE MYSTERIES OF THE MAN OF THE ATOM'S ATOMIC CHEMISTRY HAVE YET TO BE COMPLETELY EXPLORED!

DR. SOLAR
THE MIND MASTER
PART I
YES... YES... I--I KNOW THE MAN OF THE ATOM'S IDENTITY... HE IS...
NURO'S BRAINWASHED DR. CLARKSON IN HIS MIND-SMASHER! AM I TOO LATE?
THUD!
CRUSH HIM, ORUN!
THE GIANT, DIABOLICALLY DEVISED MACHINE HUMMED, THROBBED WITH ELECTRONIC POWER AND ERUPTED SHAFTS OF NUCLEAR LIGHT! IN SCANT MICRO-SECONDS, DR. SOLAR'S MOST VITAL SECRET COULD BE TORN FROM A MAN SWORN TO PROTECT IT--AND REVEALED TO THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ON EARTH!

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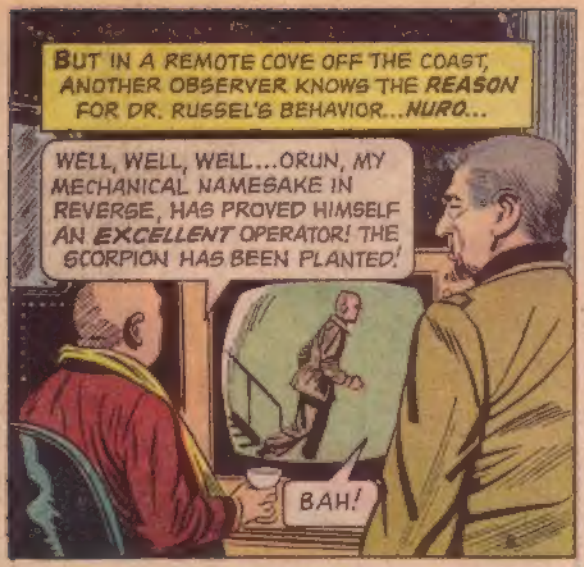
CHANGE OF ADDRESS should reach us four weeks in advance of the next issue date. Give both your old and new address enclosing if possible your old address label.

IT IS SEVEN O'CLOCK...AN ODDLY-DESIGNED TRUCK PULLS INTO A TELEVISION NETWORK'S PARKING LOT...
TV REPAIR
A SLIDING PANEL OPENS... AND A STRANGE FIGURE STEPS INTO THE SHADOWS OF A FIRE ESCAPE...
TV REPAIR
HE MOUNTS TO AN UPPER WINDOW AND BENDS THE WINDOW BARS OF A STORAGE ROOM LIKE SOFT TAFFY...
CREEAAK!
INSIDE, THE FORM MOVES WITH MECHANICAL GRACE TO A SPECIAL SECTION OF THE WALL.... HE REMOVES A GLOVE AND HIS FINGERS CLOSE IN A CONE...
CLICK! CLICK!
AND AT THE WRIST, HIS FIST REVOLVES TEN TIMES A SECOND...
WHRRRRRRRR!

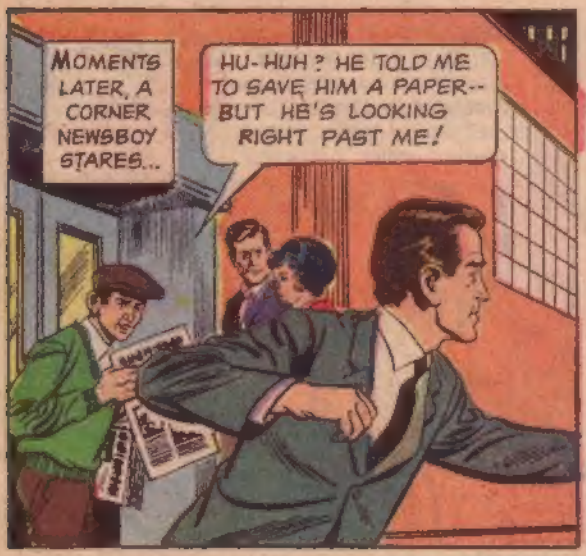
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL, A FAMED TV COMMENTATOR INTERVIEWS A FAMOUS GUEST! THEY DO NOT NOTICE THE SOFTLY DRILLING FIST...
DR. RUSSEL, YOUR VIEWS ON THE ATOMIC WORLD OF THE FUTURE ARE CERTAINLY INTERESTING...
TV
...NOR DO THEY SEE THE BIZARRE, MECHANICAL BUG THAT DROPS FROM THE HOLLOW OF THE ROBOT'S HAND...
BZZZ
THE METAL SCORPION SKITTERS ACROSS THE FLOOR...PROGRAMMED TO SEEK OUT ITS TARGET... IT STRIKES!
SOMETHING WRONG, DR. RUSSEL?
OH, ER, NO...NO!
FIFTY MILES AWAY AT ATOM VALLEY, DR. SOLAR AND HIS CO-WORKER OBSERVE THE ODDITY...
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU! I'M... ALL RIGHT NOW!
DID YOU SEE THAT, SOLAR? I WONDER WHAT BOTHERED DR. RUSSEL TO MAKE HIM JUMP LIKE THAT?
I GUESS A TELEVISION CAMERA CAN MAKE EVEN FAMOUS SCIENTISTS NERVOUS, GAIL! WELL, HIS SHOW'S OVER, ANYWAY!
CLICK!


BUT IN A REMOTE COVE OFF THE COAST, ANOTHER OBSERVER KNOWS THE REASON FOR DR. RUSSEL'S BEHAVIOR...NURO...
WELL, WELL, WELL...ORUN, MY MECHANICAL NAMESAKE IN REVERSE, HAS PROVED HIMSELF AN EXCELLENT OPERATOR! THE SCORPION HAS BEEN PLANTED!
BAH!

ONE DAY THAT IRON BRUTE WILL TURN ON YOU! YOU'VE PROGRAMMED THE THING TOO COMPLETELY!
HEH, HEH! PERHAPS YOU ARE JUST JEALOUS OF MY METAL MARVEL, UZBEK! AFRAID HE'LL SUPERCEDE YOU, EH?

NOW RETURN TO LABORATORY FIVE AND AWAIT THE RESULTS OF MY SCORPION'S STING! HA! HA! ORUN'LL BE HERE SOON!

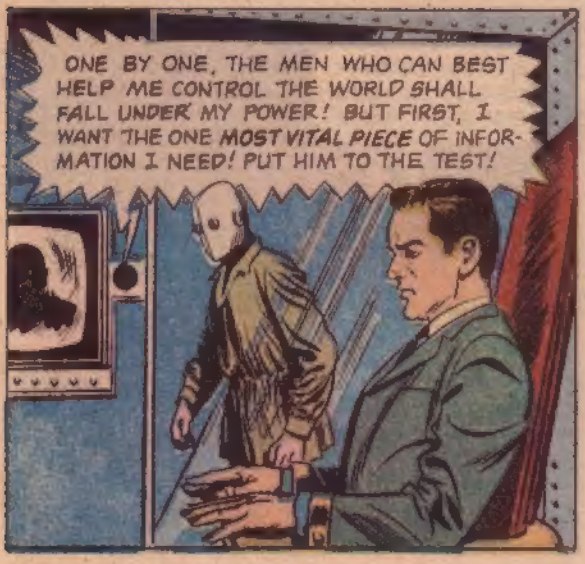
AND AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT, DR. RUSSEL LEAVES THE TV STUDIO AND...
DARLING, WHAT'S WRONG?
HOW ABOUT THAT? DR. RUSSEL CUT HIS WIFE COLD...DIDN'T SEEM TO RECOGNIZE HER!


MOMENTS LATER, A CORNER NEWSBOY STARES...
HU-HUH? HE TOLD ME TO SAVE HIM A PAPER--BUT HE'S LOOKING RIGHT PAST ME!

SOON, DR. RUSSEL REACHES HIS CAR...
FUNNY! HE DIDN'T EVEN TIP ME... AND HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A BIG SPENDER!

ON THE HIGHWAY HIS HANDS GRIP THE WHEEL TIGHTLY...
TH-THAT'S THE TURN OFF TO MY HOME... BU-BUT I COULDN'T TAKE IT!
WH-WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME... IT'S AS IF I WERE BEING CONTROLLED... DIRECTED!
I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND... I FEEL LIKE A ROBOT ... A CREATURE WHO HAS NO WILL POWER OF HIS OWN!
A STEEL DOOR-- DEAD AHEAD... I'M GOING TO CRASH!
BUT DR. RUSSEL DOES NOT CRACK UP... HIS CAR CUTS AN ELECTRIC EYE AND...
THE STING OF MY PROGRAMMED SCORPION IS A COMPLETE SUCCESS!... OUR FIRST SUBJECT RESPONDED PERFECTLY!

PLACE HIM IN THE CHAMBER AND SEND OUT MORE OF MY MECHANICAL MARVELS!


ONE BY ONE, THE MEN WHO CAN BEST HELP ME CONTROL THE WORLD SHALL FALL UNDER MY POWER! BUT FIRST, I WANT THE ONE MOST VITAL PIECE OF INFORMATION I NEED! PUT HIM TO THE TEST!

THE INCREDIBLE MIND-SMASHING MACHINE IS TURNED ON...
GET BACK, YOU IRON FLUNKY! THIS REQUIRES A HUMAN TOUCH!

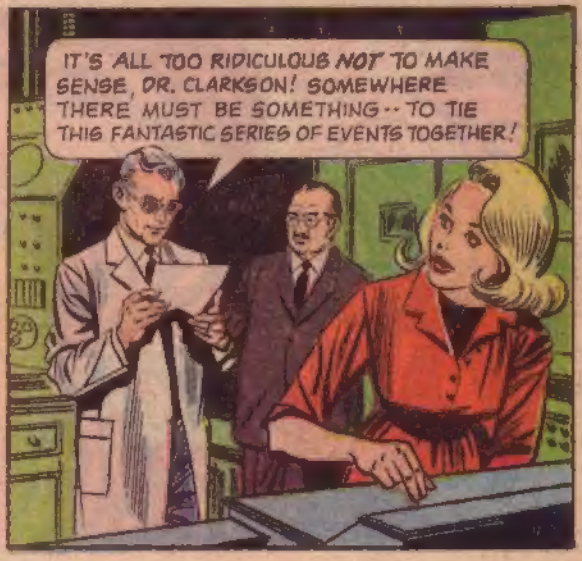
BEAMS OF LIGHT LASH THE CHAMBER... MIND-NUMBING SOUNDS THUNDER AGAINST THE SUBJECT'S EARS... AND THEN, THE QUESTION ... THE VITAL QUESTION...
WHO IS THE MAN OF THE ATOM, DR. RUSSEL?

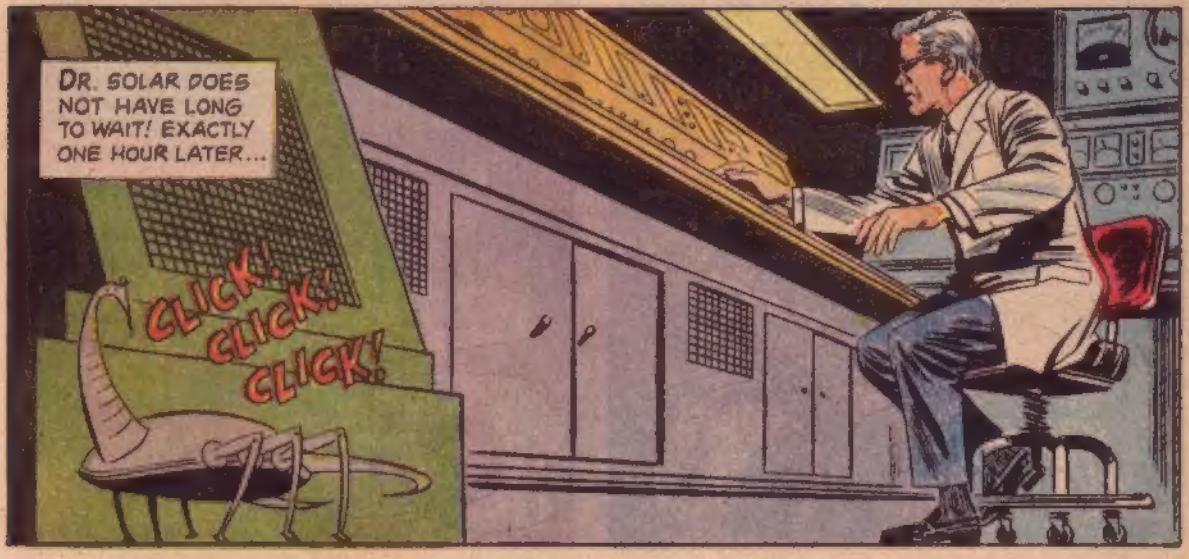
FOR LONG MINUTES, THE QUERY IS REPEATED UNTIL...
HE DOES NOT KNOW THE ANSWER, MASTER! THE OTHER SCORPION HOSTS ARE READY!
GOOD! THIS IS WHERE YOU MUST DELIVER THEM, ORUN! LISTEN CAREFULLY!

LATER, AT THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE...
WHAT IN THUNDERATION IS THAT?

BUT AS A SECURITY AGENT'S FOOT MOVES DOWN UPON THE LOATHSOME "ANIMAL"...
KA-WHAM

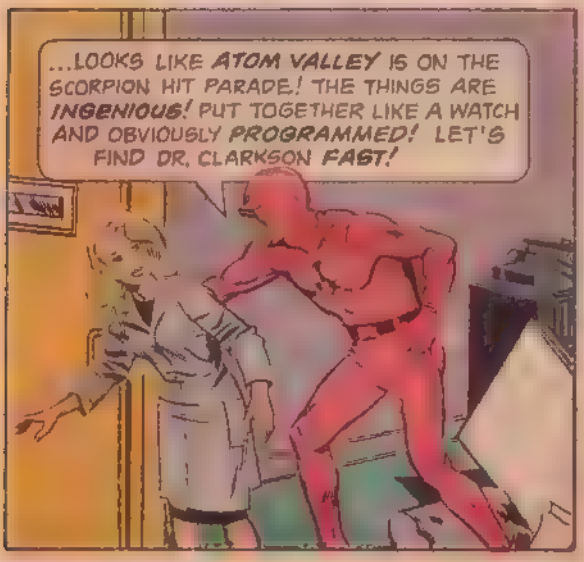
AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AS A SERIES OF SURPRISING INCIDENTS FILTER INTO ATOM VALLEY SECURITY...
KEY MEN IN OUR FIELD VANISHING... AND THEN REAPPEARING! A SCORPION BLOWING UP IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE! IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
SECURITY BUREAU

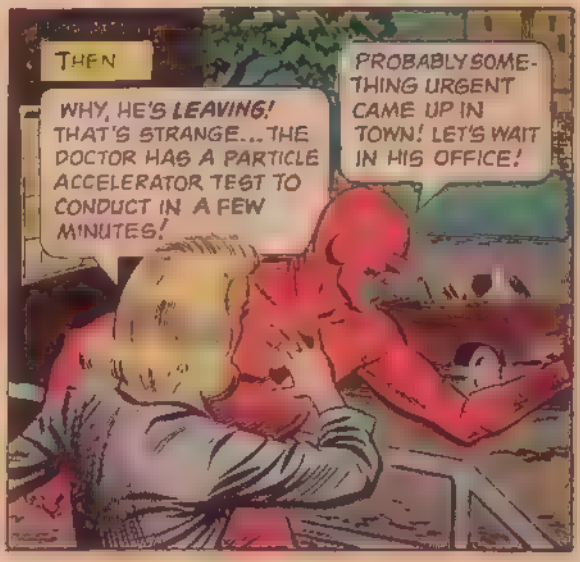

IT'S ALL TOO RIDICULOUS NOT TO MAKE SENSE, DR. CLARKSON! SOMEWHERE THERE MUST BE SOMETHING -- TO TIE THIS FANTASTIC SERIES OF EVENTS TOGETHER!

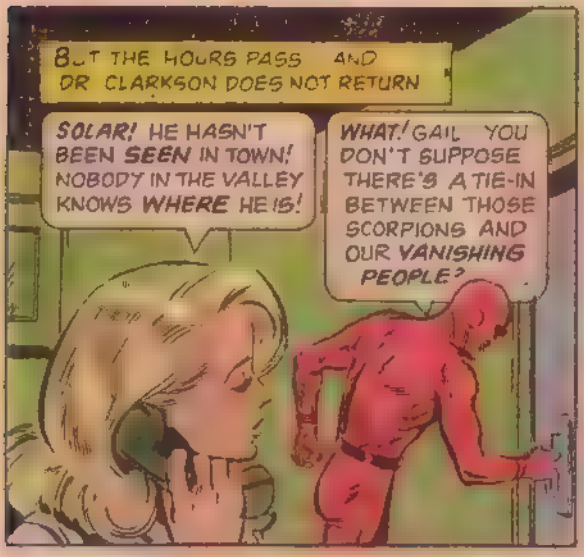

DR. SOLAR DOES NOT HAVE LONG TO WAIT! EXACTLY ONE HOUR LATER...
CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!

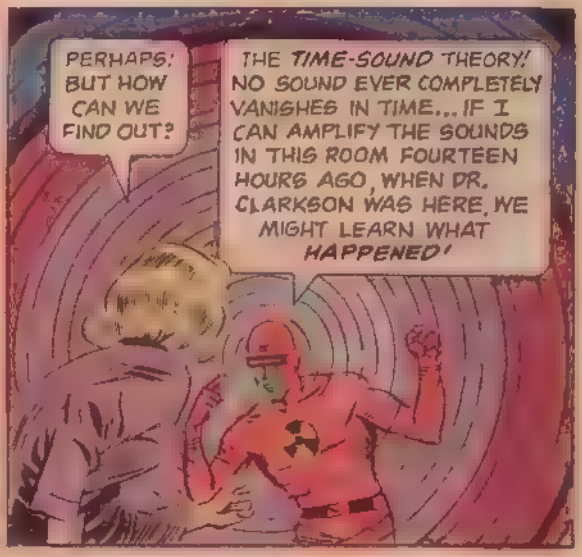
NURO'S EMISSARY OF EVIL MOVES IN TO POSSESS ITS NEXT VICTIM...
WHAT'S THAT?
SCORPION! AND THE SAME TYPE THE SECURITY PEOPLE DESCRIBED... LET'S SEE IF THIS ONE BLOWS UP!
KA-BANG!
BUT THE MAN OF THE ATOM'S AMAZING POWERS SAVE HIM FROM DESTRUCTION ...HIS BODY VAPORIZES...
AND THEN SLOWLY REFORMS INTO THE RADIOACTIVE MOLECULES THAT MAKE UP HIS ATOMIC BODY...

AND AS SOLAR TAKES SHAPE FROM A RADIO ACTIVE MIST TO THE MAN OF THE ATOM..
TH-THAT EXPLOSION!... WHAT HAPPENED, SOLAR?
THE BOMB BLG BIT ME-- OR TRIED TO, GAIL!

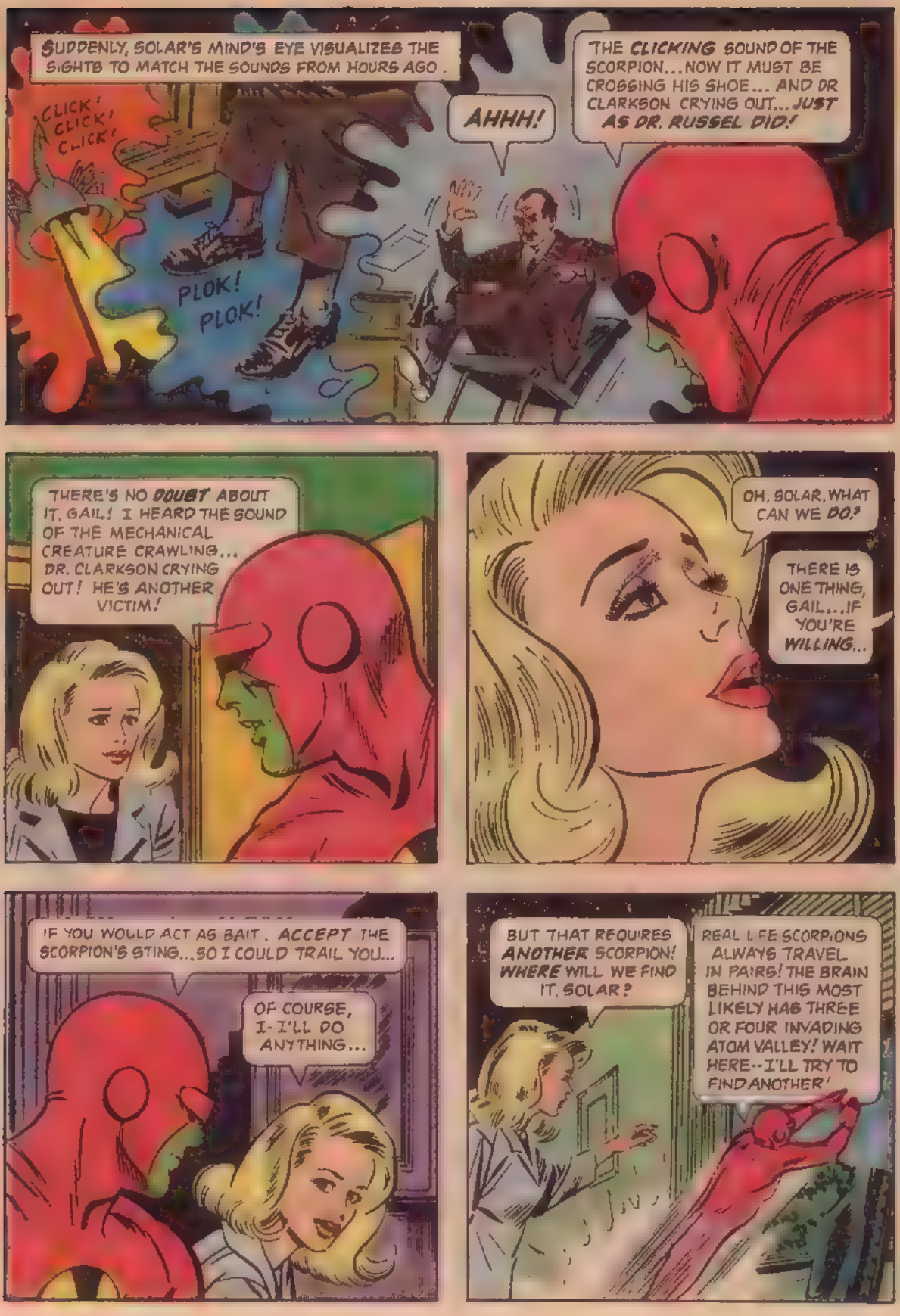

...LOOKS LIKE ATOM VALLEY IS ON THE SCORPION HIT PARADE! THE THINGS ARE INGENIOUS! PUT TOGETHER LIKE A WATCH AND OBVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED! LET'S FIND DR. CLARKSON FAST!


THEN
WHY, HE'S LEAVING! THAT'S STRANGE... THE DOCTOR HAS A PARTICLE ACCELERATOR TEST TO CONDUCT IN A FEW MINUTES!
PROBABLY SOMETHING URGENT CAME UP IN TOWN! LET'S WAIT IN HIS OFFICE!


BUT THE HOURS PASS AND DR CLARKSON DOES NOT RETURN
SOLAR! HE HASN'T BEEN SEEN IN TOWN! NOBODY IN THE VALLEY KNOWS WHERE HE IS!
WHAT! GAIL YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S A TIE-IN BETWEEN THOSE SCORPIONS AND OUR VANISHING PEOPLE?


PERHAPS! BUT HOW CAN WE FIND OUT?
THE TIME-SOUND THEORY! NO SOUND EVER COMPLETELY VANISHES IN TIME... IF I CAN AMPLIFY THE SOUNDS IN THIS ROOM FOURTEEN HOURS AGO, WHEN DR. CLARKSON WAS HERE, WE MIGHT LEARN WHAT HAPPENED!

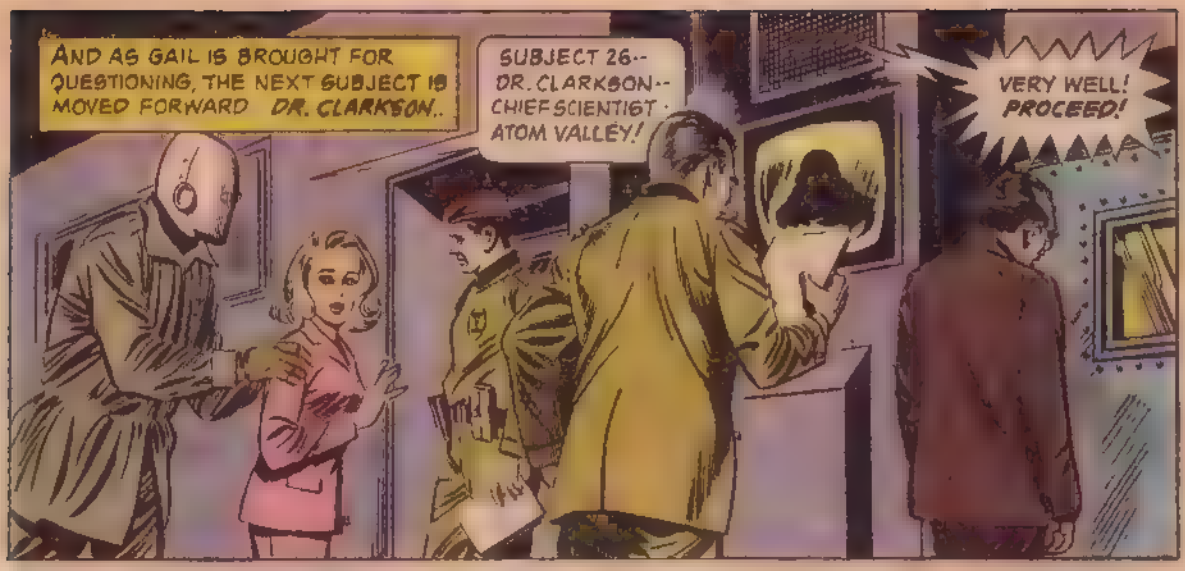
LET'S GO! I NEED MORE ENERGY! THE REACTOR, GAIL!
MINUTES LATER, A FANTASTIC SCENE TAKES PLACE AS THE MAN OF THE ATOM RECHARGES HIMSELF IN THE ATOM VALLEY NUCLEAR REACTOR.
FULL STRENGTH-- SOLAR MUST HAVE EVERY MOLECULE IN HIS BODY AT TOP NUCLEAR CAPACITY!
WHEN THE REACTOR CHARGE HAS BEEN ABSORBED, SOLAR AND GAIL RETURN TO DR CLARKSON'S LABORATORY..
I'M GENERATING HIGH-FREQUENCY SOUND WAVES TO MAGNIFY THE SOUND WAVES CREATED IN THIS OFFICE HOURS AGO, GAIL! KEEP BACK... IT COULD BE DANGEROUS!
FOR DESPERATE MINUTES, SOLAR CONCENTRATES, THEN..
THE NOON WHISTLE-- I'M AT THE WRONG LEVEL OF SOUND! I MUST GO BACK TWO MORE HOURS...TO THE TIME DR. CLARKSON WAS HERE...
WHEEE- WHEEE!
MICRO-SECONDS FLIT BY.. ONE BY ONE, THE OFFICE SOUNDS SLIP OUT OF THE ETHER OF TIME INTO SOLAR'S CONSCIOUSNESS.
HE DOESN'T ANSWER THE PHONE... MUST STILL BE OUT!...
A DESK DRAWER SLAMMING .. HE'S BACK...
PLEASE READY THE PARTICLE ACCELERATOR TEST, MISS LAKE!
HMM! HE HAD EVERY INTENTION OF CONDUCTING THAT TEST! BUT WHAT HAPPENED?
BRRTNG BRRTNG
BANG!

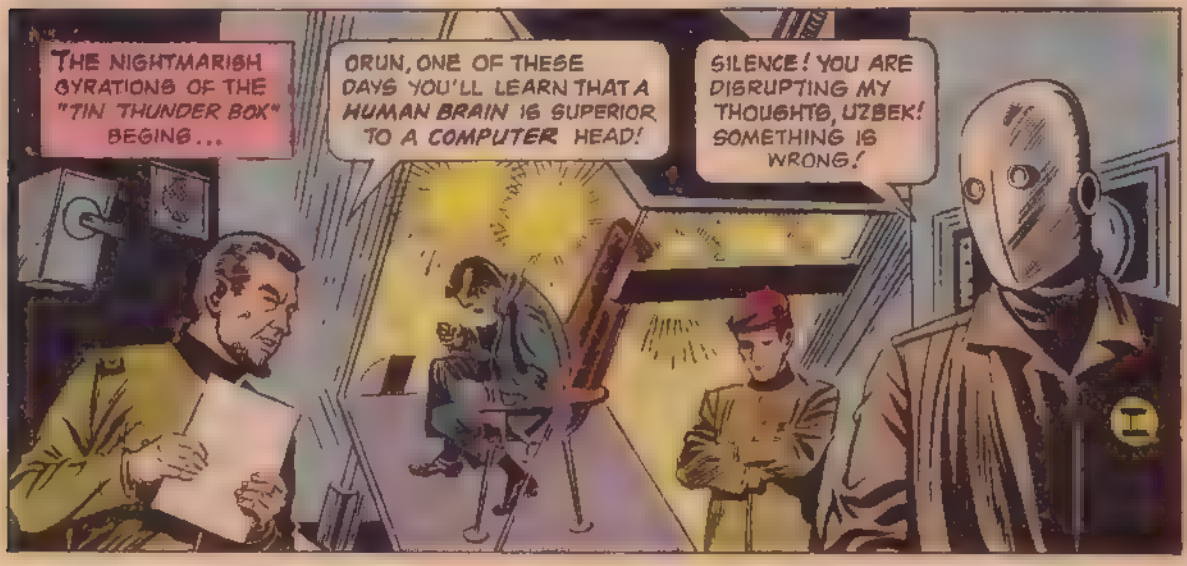

SUDDENLY, SOLAR'S MIND'S EYE VISUALIZES THE SIGHTS TO MATCH THE SOUNDS FROM HOURS AGO.
CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!
PLOK! PLOK!
AHHH!
THE CLICKING SOUND OF THE SCORPION... NOW IT MUST BE CROSSING HIS SHOE... AND DR CLARKSON CRYING OUT... JUST AS DR. RUSSEL DID!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, GAIL! I HEARD THE SOUND OF THE MECHANICAL CREATURE CRAWLING... DR. CLARKSON CRYING OUT! HE'S ANOTHER VICTIM!
OH, SOLAR, WHAT CAN WE DO?
THERE IS ONE THING, GAIL... IF YOU'RE WILLING...
IF YOU WOULD ACT AS BAIT. ACCEPT THE SCORPION'S STING... SO I COULD TRAIL YOU...
OF COURSE, I- I'LL DO ANYTHING...
BUT THAT REQUIRES ANOTHER SCORPION! WHERE WILL WE FIND IT, SOLAR?
REAL LIFE SCORPIONS ALWAYS TRAVEL IN PAIRS! THE BRAIN BEHIND THIS MOST LIKELY HAS THREE OR FOUR INVADING ATOM VALLEY! WAIT HERE--I'LL TRY TO FIND ANOTHER!

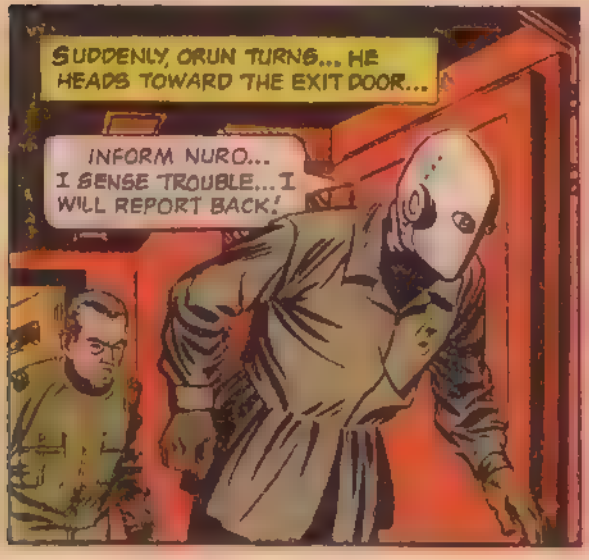
AND AT THE PRECISE MOMENT THE MAN OF THE ATOM EXITS IN SEARCH OF A THIRD BIZARRE MECHANICAL SCORPION, NURO'S GROTESQUE BRAIN CHILD IS SEEKING A DOZEN DIFFERENT HOSTS.
AT CAPE KENNEDY, A TOP MILITARY MAN SUDDENLY LEAVES LAUNCH CONTROL.
CLICK!
CLICK! CLICK!
THE PLANT OFFICIAL OF EASTERN SEABOARD LIGHTING ABRUPTLY FLICKS A SWITCH...AND LEAVES HIS POST.
No. 5 SILO
A KEY MISSILE MAN EXITS WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM A SECRET SILO BASE IN THE MIDWEST..

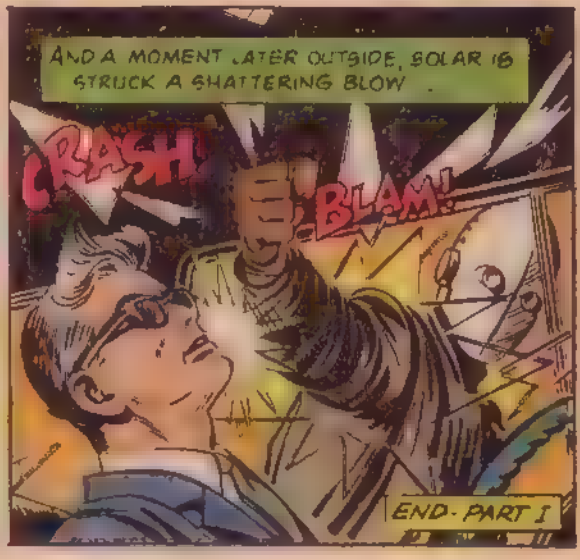
MEANWHILE, THE MAN OF THE ATOM STREAKS OVER ATOM VALLEY SCRUB BRUSH, SEARCHING
ELECTRONIC WAVES FROM MY HANDS SHOULD PICK UP ANY OF THOSE FIENDISH DEVICES IN THE AREA...
...UNLESS MY RADIATIONS TRIGGER THE SELF-DESTRUCT MECHANISM AND BLOW THE THING TO BITS!
SUDDENLY, LIKE A MINE DETECTOR, SOLAR'S PALM PICKS UP A SIGNAL . A METALLIC OBJECT IS SOMEWHERE BELOW. .
WHOA! GOT A BITE!
PING! PING!
PING! PING!
THERE YOU ARE, MY LITTLE MONSTER... AND YOU WON'T BE EXPLODED BY TOUCH THIS TIME! I'LL BRING YOU BACK MAGNETICALLY!
SHORTLY. .
I-I'M READY, SOLAR!
STEADY, GAIL... STEADY... STAND RIGHT IN FRONT OF IT!
OH-H-H!

ONCE AGAIN, NURO'S MECHANICAL DEMON FINDS A HOST... BUT THIS TIME THE VICTIM IS FOLLOWED..
WHATEVER HAPPENS, I MUSTN'T FAIL GAIL... SHE'S A BRAVE GIRL...
HELPLESSLY, GAIL DRIVES ON TOWARD THE LAIR THAT BECKONS THOSE WHO FALL PREY TO THE SCORPIONS..
I HAVE NO WILL... I MUST DRIVE STRAIGHT AHEAD. STRAIGHT TOWARD THAT ENTRANCE.
AND WITHIN THE BRAINWASHING LAIR, THE QUESTIONING PROCESS CONTINUES
ENOUGH! THIS SUBJECT CAN NOT ANSWER THE VITAL QUESTION! ADMIT THE NEXT SCORPION-HOST!
OPEN THE BRAIN TANK, UZBEK!
DO IT YOURSELF, BOLT HEAD! DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS!

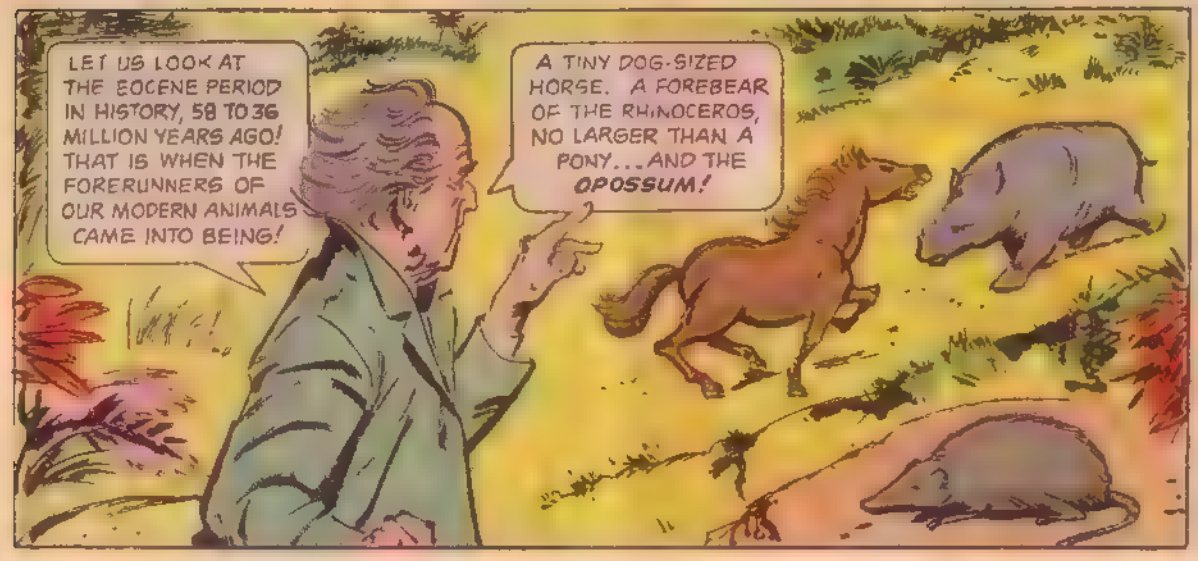

AND AS GAIL IS BROUGHT FOR QUESTIONING, THE NEXT SUBJECT IS MOVED FORWARD DR. CLARKSON..
SUBJECT 26-- DR. CLARKSON-- CHIEF SCIENTIST · ATOM VALLEY!
VERY WELL! PROCEED!


THE NIGHTMARISH GYRATIONS OF THE "TIN THUNDER BOX" BEGIN...
ORUN, ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU'LL LEARN THAT A HUMAN BRAIN IS SUPERIOR TO A COMPUTER HEAD!
SILENCE! YOU ARE DISRUPTING MY THOUGHTS, UZBEK! SOMETHING IS WRONG!


SUDDENLY, ORUN TURNS... HE HEADS TOWARD THE EXIT DOOR...
INFORM NURO... I SENSE TROUBLE... I WILL REPORT BACK!


AND A MOMENT LATER OUTSIDE, SOLAR IS STRUCK A SHATTERING BLOW
CRASH!
BLAM!
END · PART I

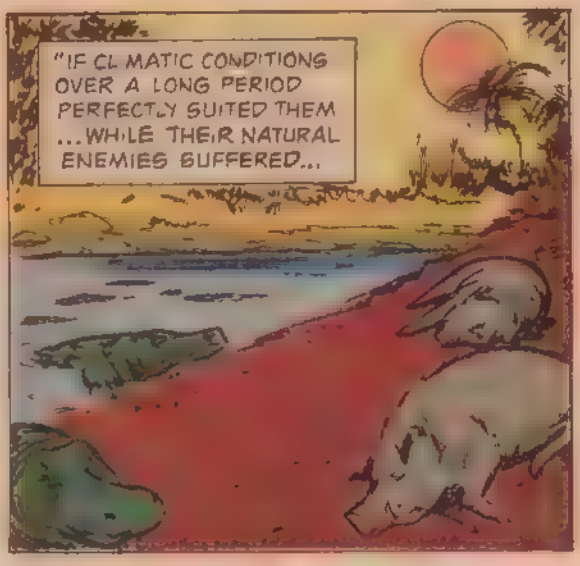
Professor Harbinger
INVASION OF THE CROCODILES
CROCODILES INVADING MAIN STREET! FANTASTIC--IMPOSSIBLE, YOU SAY? PERHAPS NOT! FOR SOMETIMES NATURE MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS INDEED WHEN HER POWERFUL FORCES ARE TAMPERED WITH!

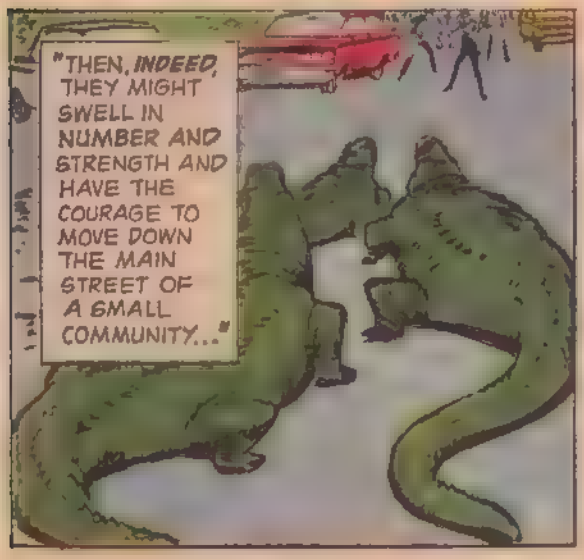

LET US LOOK AT THE EOCENE PERIOD IN HISTORY, 58 TO 36 MILLION YEARS AGO! THAT IS WHEN THE FORERUNNERS OF OUR MODERN ANIMALS CAME INTO BEING!
A TINY DOG-SIZED HORSE. A FOREBEAR OF THE RHINOCEROS, NO LARGER THAN A PONY...AND THE OPOSSUM!

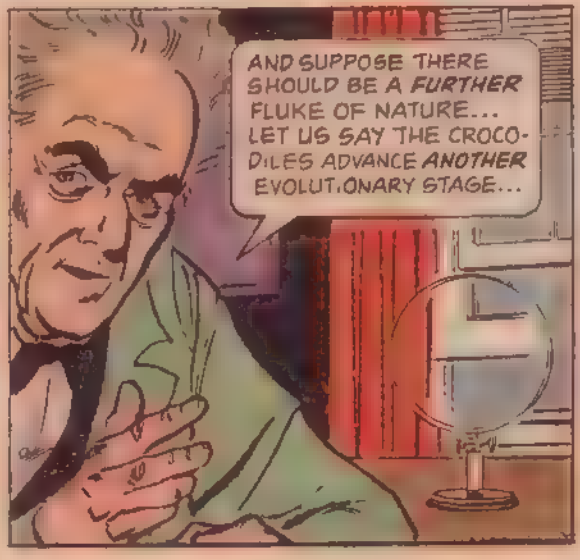
"OVER THE CENTURIES CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, BATTLES FOR SURVIVAL AND MANY OTHER FACTORS WIPED THEM FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH...
"..ONE SPECIES AT A TIME...
"LATER EVEN THE MIGHTY SABER TOOTHED TIGER COULD NOT SAVE HIMSELF FROM BECOMING EXTINCT...
"...AND THE INCREDIBLE 15-FOOT MACE-TAILED DOEDICURUS FELL BY THE WAYSIDE OF TIME..."
YES, ALL PERISHED SAVE ONE! CAN YOU IMAGINE WHICH MODERN-DAY MAMMAL EXISTED ALMOST EXACTLY THE SAME FIFTY MILLION YEARS AGO?
IT IS THE LITTLE OPOSSUM! WHY? WHAT QUIRK OF NATURE ALLOWED THIS ONE TINY CREATURE TO SURVIVE?

NO ONE CAN SAY, BUT DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW WHY CROCODILES ON MAIN STREET ARE NOT TOO FAR FETCHED? IF ALL CONDITIONS WERE PERFECT FOR THEIR EXISTENCE...

"IF ALL OF THE 88 EGGS THEY CAN LAY HATCHED IN THE SUN, [illegible] DEVOURED BY BIRDS OR SMALL ANIMALS.


"IF CLIMATIC CONDITIONS OVER A LONG PERIOD PERFECTLY SUITED THEM ...WHILE THEIR NATURAL ENEMIES SUFFERED...


"THEN, INDEED, THEY MIGHT SWELL IN NUMBER AND STRENGTH AND HAVE THE COURAGE TO MOVE DOWN THE MAIN STREET OF A SMALL COMMUNITY..."


AND SUPPOSE THERE SHOULD BE A FURTHER FLUKE OF NATURE... LET US SAY THE CROCODILES ADVANCE ANOTHER EVOLUTIONARY STAGE...

"THEY TRIPLE IN SIZE...THEIR NATURAL ARMOR-LIKE HIDES INCREASE IN THICKNESS... THEY DECIDE TO ATTACK THE BIG CITIES...
"ORDINARY BULLETS CANNOT PENETRATE THEIR HIDES...ARTILLERY CANNOT BE USED WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE POPULACE..."
WHY THEY MIGHT WRECK HAVOC ALONG THE WHOLE COASTLINE BEFORE THEY COULD BE SUBDUED!
TH-THEY'VE COME! IT'S HAPPENED!
I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR HARBINGER ...I DIDN'T MEAN TO FRIGHTEN YOU BY CLIMBING IN THE WINDOW! I JUST WANTED TO SHOW YOU MY NEW BABY ALLIGATOR!
HEH, HEH! TH-THAT'S ALL RIGHT, SON! HEH, HEH! I WAS JUST CONDUCTING SOME SPECIAL EXPERIMENTS! MY, MY...YES, INDEED, THAT CERTAINLY IS A CUTE, LITTLE FELLOW!

SOLAR'S SCIENCE FORUM

Readers write us many letters containing questions about Doctor Solar.

I think Doctor Solar is the greatest. The art is good and so are the stories. I like the one when he fought the prehistoric animals. It was very exciting. How does he get the power to keep back the radioactivity? How does he freeze the animals? Is he ever going to be helped by someone in the future?

DAVID McDADE,/Baltimore, Maryland

Because Doctor Solar is radioactive, he does not have to keep back radioactivity. When he uses up energy, he absorbs radioactivity like a battery being recharged. This is why he goes to the atomic reactor every two weeks or so. He also carries radioactive "pills" in the secret compartment of his belt buckle. When he needs a temporary increase in radioactivity, he swallows one of the pills. He is able to freeze things by a process known as heat exchange. Energy can produce heat or cold. Doctor Solar uses energy to absorb heat in an area, thereby making that area very, very cold. Doctor Solar is helped by Gail and by Dr. Clarkson.

I have many comic books at home and I have noticed quite a few mistakes in them. Well, I finally found a mistake in a Doctor Solar comic. On page 3 of the June issue, in the yellow caption, it says, "with two suns rotating about our earth, world crops will double . . . thousands of square miles will bloom with vegetation." Let's be reasonable. You sound like someone who disagrees with Copernicus. The sun doesn't rotate about the earth. It's the other way around. Besides, plants couldn't take 24 hours of daylight. Anyway, farmers couldn't stay awake and plant crops all night.

The covers of Doctor Solar are great! Stories would be equally as great if you would get rid of Nuro. He makes all of your stories terrible. Other than that one fact, your comics are pretty good.

TIM SESSIONS, Redfield, South Dakota

Sorry about the slip regarding the sun. In the story, we did say that the satellite sun was placed in orbit, opposite the real sun on the other side of the earth. As the earth turned, it was exposed to the sunlight from the artificial sun, and then from the real sun. This gave continual sunlight. Please check with your biology teacher. We believe you will find that plants will grow continuously if they have sunlight, water and nutrients. The farmers could work in shifts. Some would work during the "night" while the others work during the "day." Many factories work round the clock in three 8-hour shifts. As for Nuro, Doctor Solar would like to get rid of him, too. We are glad you don't like him, because we feel he adds hate interest to the story. He represents all that is bad.

I have just read Doctor Solar, June. It was very interesting. Several pages told me things about Solar's strength and speed. I hope you go right on putting science pages (in the magazine).

KIM BONNO,/Metamora, Michigan

How could you do it? How could you make my favorite comic book (less than) a bi-monthly? He certainly deserves it (bi-monthly). There is no finer cover than a Doctor Solar, except possibly Mighty Samson. The stories are the finest to be found, and the art is excellent. Never before has there been a super-hero anything like Solar, mainly because he is believable. By the way, keep out "Secrets of Atom Valley," or the like, and feature an additional page of letters. In closing, I insist the Doc should be published six times a year, rather than four. Keep up the good work.

ALLAN RIFKIN,/Brooklyn, New York

To such a series of compliments, we have only one thing to say: Thanks!

I would like some pictures of Doctor Solar, Man of the Atom. I want them for my scrap book Heroes of America.

MATTHEW OLSON,, Elmore, Minnesota

Sorry, but we do not have pictures of Doctor Solar which we can send to you. If you think that pin-up posters are something that you might want to buy, or if other readers think that they would like to buy pictures of Gold Key Comics heroes, drop us a line and we'll see what we can do about it.

I have been reading Doctor Solar's book a year now, and I made up my own books from his books. I have a name for this man. It is Ontos. It means thing with a deadly sting. His power is the same as Solar's powers. Please make stories about Solar and his adopted brother, Ontos.

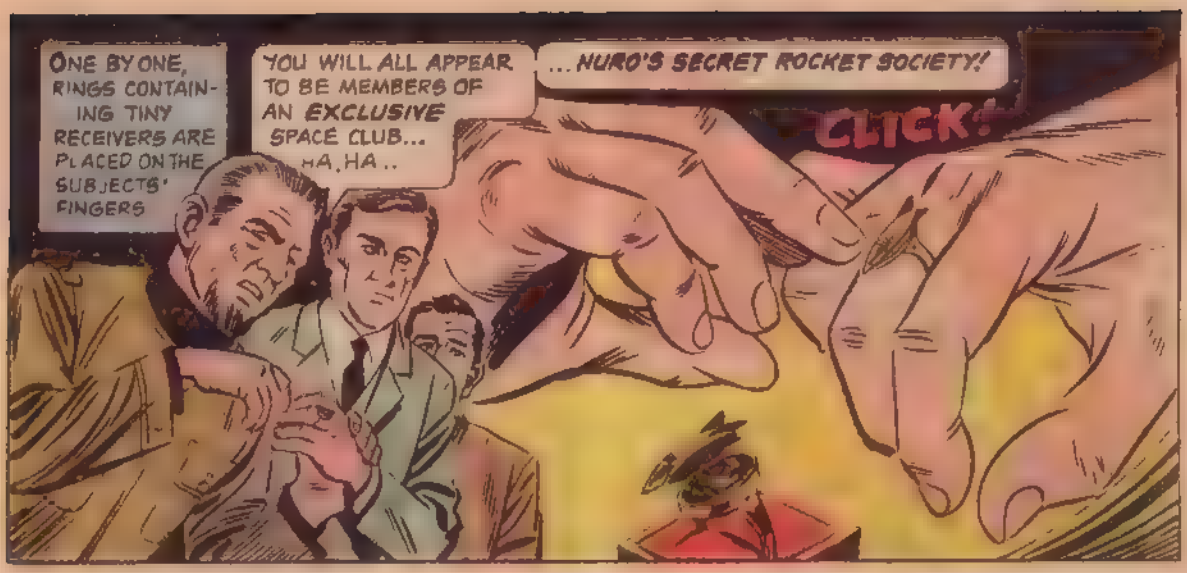
KENNETH THOMAS,/Chicago, Illinois

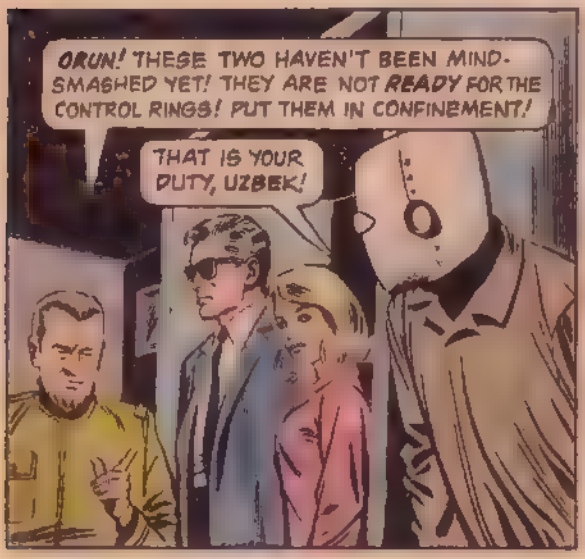
Sorry, Doctor Solar was an only child. He does not have a brother.

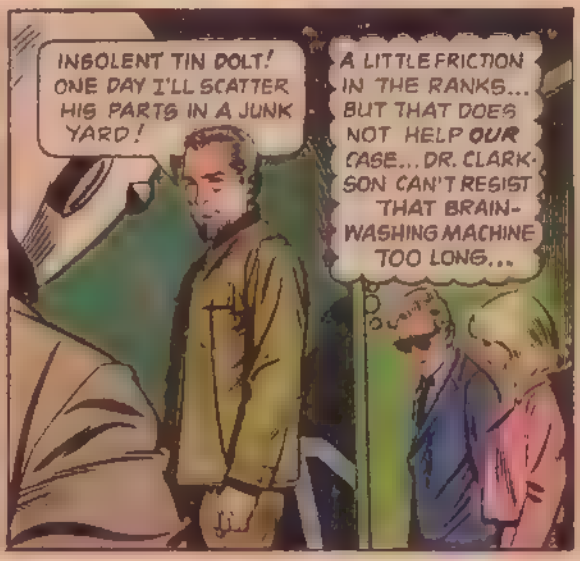
KEEP YOUR LETTERS AND QUESTIONS COMING AND WE WILL TRY TO ANSWER AS MANY OF THEM AS POSSIBLE. The Editors

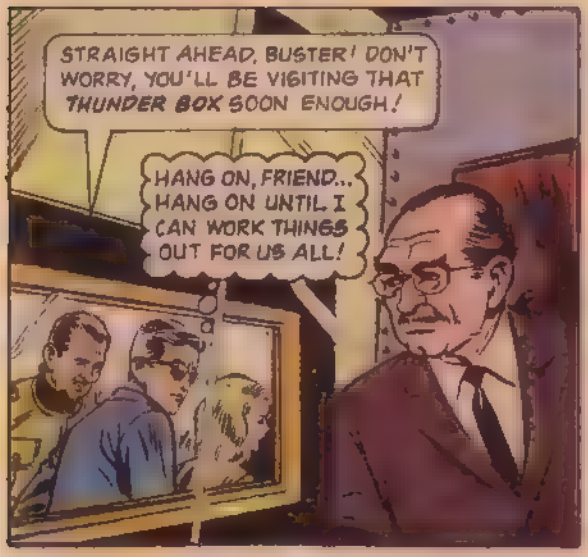
DR SOLAR THE MIND MASTER PART II
ORUN, NURO'S INCREDIBLY PROGRAMMED ROBOT, BRINGS SOLAR INTO THE BIZARRE BRAINWASHING LABORATORY...
MY SENSORY CELLS DETECTED A STRANGER'S PRESENCE OUTSIDE, MASTER! HIS PAPERS INDICATE HE IS ANOTHER ATOM VALLEY SCIENTIST!
DR. CLARKSON--BEING BRAINWASHED! MUST PLAY UNCONSCIOUS FOR A WHILE--CAN'T CONVERT INTO A NUCLEAR STATE TO AID HIM WITHOUT REVEALING MY IDENTITY!
HE WAS WAITING IN A VEHICLE!
EXCELLENT, ORUN! HE OBVIOUSLY FOLLOWED HIS FEMALE COLLEAGUE! PREPARE HIM FOR QUESTIONING ALSO! HIS CURIOSITY GIVES US TWO SUBJECTS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

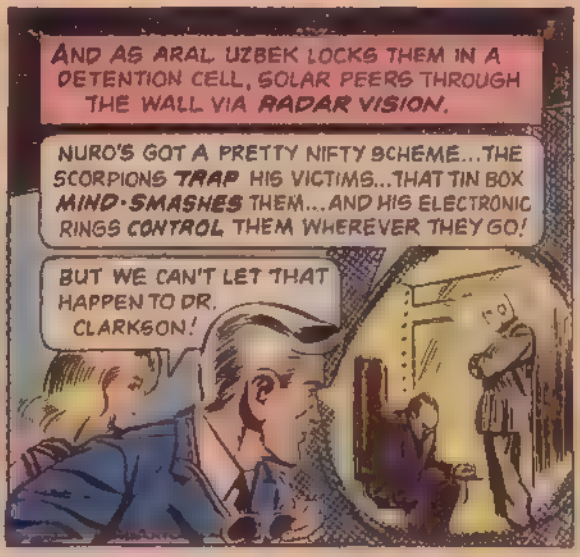
MILES AWAY, ABOARD A YACHT THE MASTER CRAFTSMAN OF CRIME SMIRKS INTO HIS INGENIOUS 3-D TV SCREEN. .
HA, HA! PERHAPS NOW YOU CAN SEE HOW IMPORTANT ORUN IS, UZBEK! A PERFECTLY PROGRAMMED EXTENSION OF MYSELF! WITH ALL YOUR CUNNING, YOU COULD NOT DETECT THE VISITOR OUTSIDE HA! HA!
COMPARED TO ORUN'S ELECTRIC BRAIN WIZARDY, YOURS IS A PIGMY MIND!... REMEMBER THAT WELL BEFORE YOU PLOT TREACHERY AGAINST MY METAL MARVEL!
I HAVE BEEN YOUR RIGHT HAND FOR YEARS, NURO! YO-YOU DO ME AN INJUSTICE!
YOU WILL OBEY ORUN AS YOU WOULD OBEY ME! NOW CONTINUE THE PROCESSING!
AS DR CLARKSON FIGHTS THE MIND SMASHER THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY GONE BEFORE HIM ARE PREPARED FOR THEIR RETURN TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD .
I HAVE RETRIEVED THE SCORPION HOMING DEVICES-- THE SUBJECTS ARE READY FOR THE CONTACT RING!
YES.. YES! DON'T GET EXCITED!


ONE BY ONE, RINGS CONTAINING TINY RECEIVERS ARE PLACED ON THE SUBJECTS' FINGERS
YOU WILL ALL APPEAR TO BE MEMBERS OF AN EXCLUSIVE SPACE CLUB... HA, HA..
...NURO'S SECRET ROCKET SOCIETY!
CLICK!


ORUN! THESE TWO HAVEN'T BEEN MIND-SMASHED YET! THEY ARE NOT READY FOR THE CONTROL RINGS! PUT THEM IN CONFINEMENT!
THAT IS YOUR DUTY, UZBEK!


INSOLENT TIN DOLT! ONE DAY I'LL SCATTER HIS PARTS IN A JUNK YARD!
A LITTLE FRICTION IN THE RANKS... BUT THAT DOES NOT HELP OUR CASE... DR. CLARKSON CAN'T RESIST THAT BRAIN-WASHING MACHINE TOO LONG...

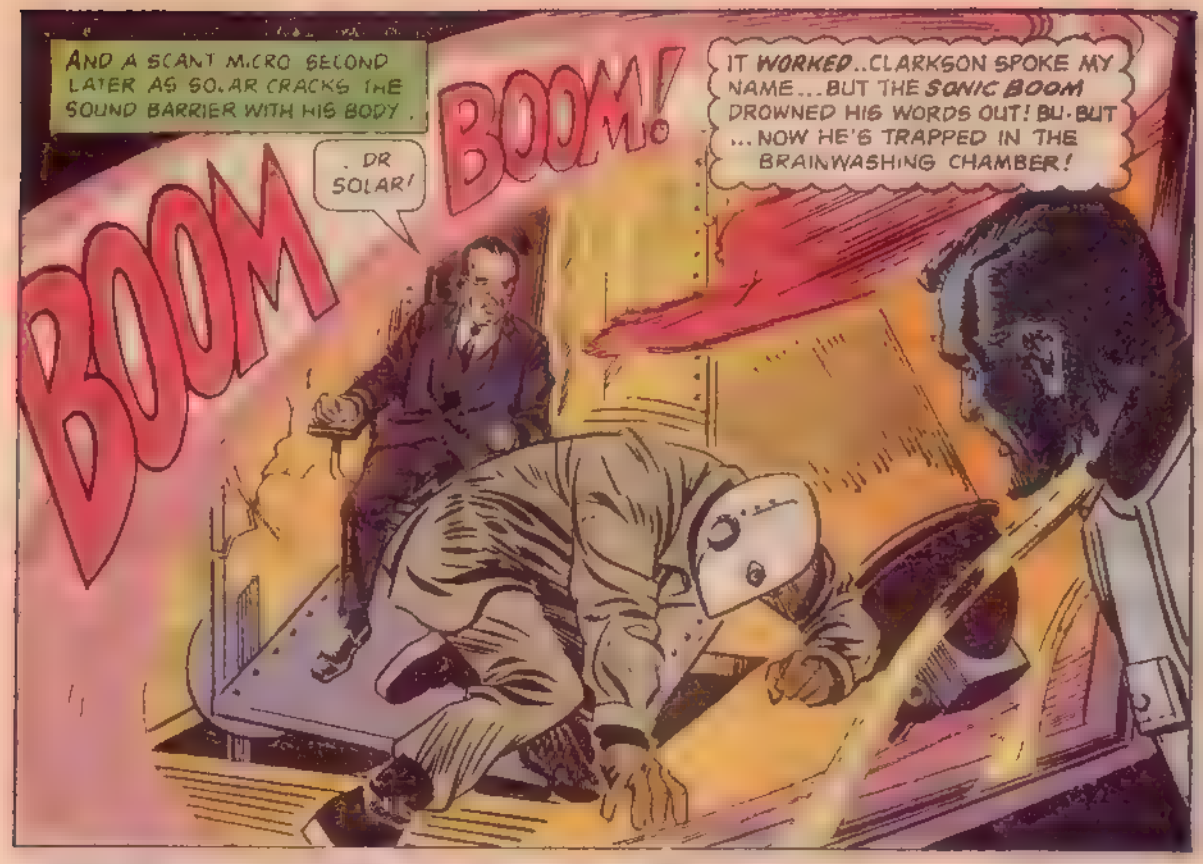

STRAIGHT AHEAD, BUSTER! DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL BE VISITING THAT THUNDER BOX SOON ENOUGH!
HANG ON, FRIEND... HANG ON UNTIL I CAN WORK THINGS OUT FOR US ALL!

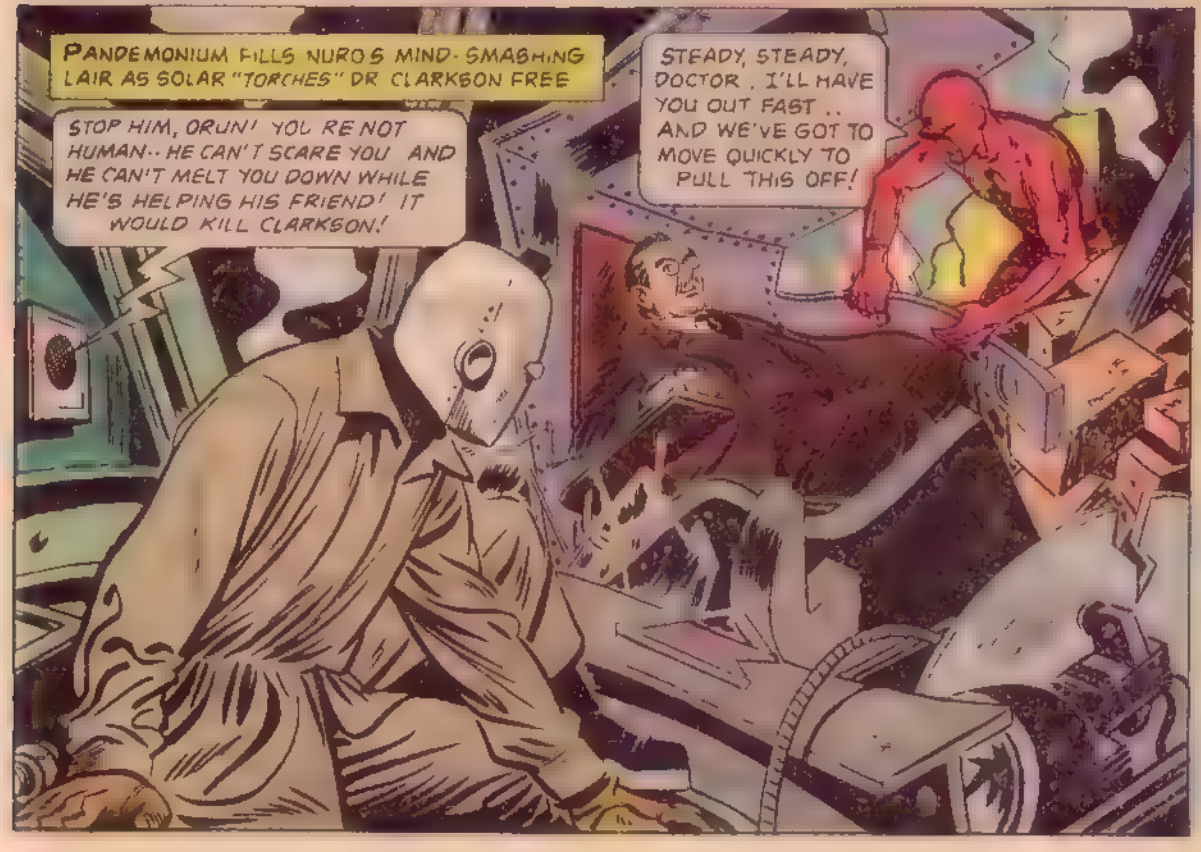

AND AS ARAL UZBEK LOCKS THEM IN A DETENTION CELL, SOLAR PEERS THROUGH THE WALL VIA RADAR VISION.
NURO'S GOT A PRETTY NIFTY SCHEME... THE SCORPIONS TRAP HIS VICTIMS... THAT TIN BOX MIND-SMASHES THEM... AND HIS ELECTRONIC RINGS CONTROL THEM WHEREVER THEY GO!
BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO DR. CLARKSON!

CLARKSON'S HOLDING UP OKAY, GAIL-- THE BRAINWASHING IS A SLOW PROCESS! WE NEED TIME TO PLAN THE WISEST MOVE!
RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE USING A WHIRLING COLORED DISK TO DISTORT HIS VISION. CONFUSE HIS MIND.
AND AS SOLAR CONTINUES TO PEER THROUGH THE WALL, CHECKING ON DR. CLARKSON...
THEY'RE ROCKING THE MIND-SMASHING CHAMBER NOW...TRYING TO BREAK HIS RESISTANCE WITH SOUND WAVES!
CLANG!
BONG!
BONG!
IF I UTILIZE ATOMIC HEAT TO MELT OPEN THE DOOR, THEY'LL KNOW DR. SOLAR IS THE MAN OF THE ATOM!
BUT IF YOU DON'T... DR. CLARKSON WILL LOSE CONTROL OF HIS MIND!
I MUST NOT REVEAL THAT I AM THE MAN OF THE ATOM! MELTING A PATH THROUGH THE WALL TO THE OUTSIDE WOULD GIVE ME AWAY...THERE MUST BE A WAY...THERE'S GOT TO BE!

SUDDENLY, SOLAR'S HIGHLY-SENSITIVE, NUCLEAR ATTUNED EARS PICK UP A SHOCKING COMMAND...
NOW, DR. CLARKSON, TELL US-- WHO IS THE MAN OF THE ATOM!
GAIL--THEY'RE DEMANDING THAT DR CLARKSON REVEAL MY IDENTITY!
ABRUPTLY, A LIGHT ATOMIC GLOW ILLUMINATES SOLAR ..
WE CAN'T WAIT ANOTHER SECOND...TRY TO BLOCK THE HOLE I'LL MAKE AND HOPE MY PLAN WORKS!
EXTENDING HIS HANDS FORWARD, THE MAN OF THE ATOM RADIATES HIGHLY DIRECTIONAL HEAT...
LIKE A HOT BULLET THROUGH BUTTER, HE MELTS A PATH THROUGH THE EARTH SURROUNDING NURO'S UNDERGROUND LAIR ..
CLARKSON IS FORCING HIS MIND TO THINK OF IMPORTANT NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTS TO COMBAT THE BRAINWASHING MACHINE.. BUT EVEN HIS GREAT INTELLECT CAN'T STAND UP AGAINST SUCH FIENDISH DEVICES FOR LONG...
SCANT SECONDS LATER, AS DR CLARKSON WRITHES IN THE THROES OF NURO'S DEMONIC MIND-SMASHING MACHINE...
SPEAK! SPEAK, DR. CLARKSON! GIVE US THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE MAN OF THE ATOM!
NO ..NO... MUST CONCENTRATE...THE ACCELERATOR TEST. THREE PROTONS WILL SHATTER MATTER INTO ATOMIC NUCLEI... CONCENTRATE!
DANGER!

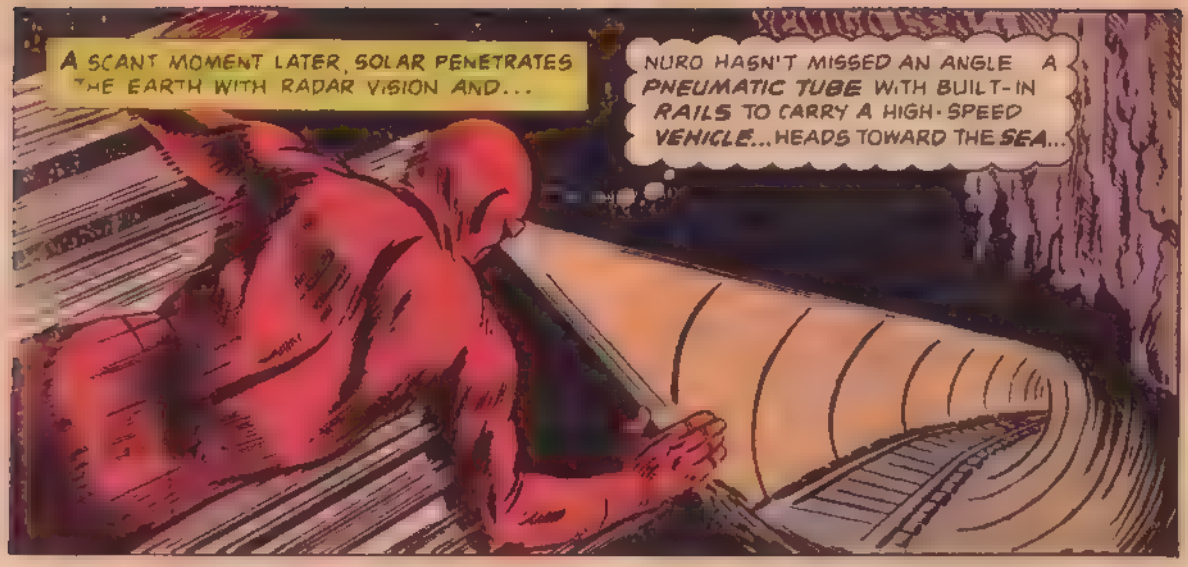
SUDDENLY
STEEL SECURITY DOOR--IT IS GLOWING WHITE HOT!
IE-YES..I WILL TELL YOU THE MAN OF THE ATOM'S IDENTITY..
IT IS THE MAN OF THE ATOM!
HURRY, YOU OAFS! MAKE HIM SPEAK!
IN DESPERATION, NURO'S VOICE BOOMS INTO THE BRAINWASHING CHAMBER AND
SPEAK! SPEAK DR CLARKSON!
TH-THE MAN OF THE ATOM ...IS...
I'M TOO LATE ...UNLESS..
INSTANTLY SOLAR LAUNCHES HIMSELF ACROSS THE CHAMBER..
...IS...
NO TIME TO STOP HIS SENTENCE...BUT IF I TRAVEL FASTER THAN HIS WORDS...FASTER THAN SOUND...


AND A SCANT MICRO SECOND LATER AS SOLAR CRACKS THE SOUND BARRIER WITH HIS BODY .
BOOM
BOOM!
. DR SOLAR!
IT WORKED..CLARKSON SPOKE MY NAME... BUT THE SONIC BOOM DROWNED HIS WORDS OUT! BU-BUT ... NOW HE'S TRAPPED IN THE BRAINWASHING CHAMBER!

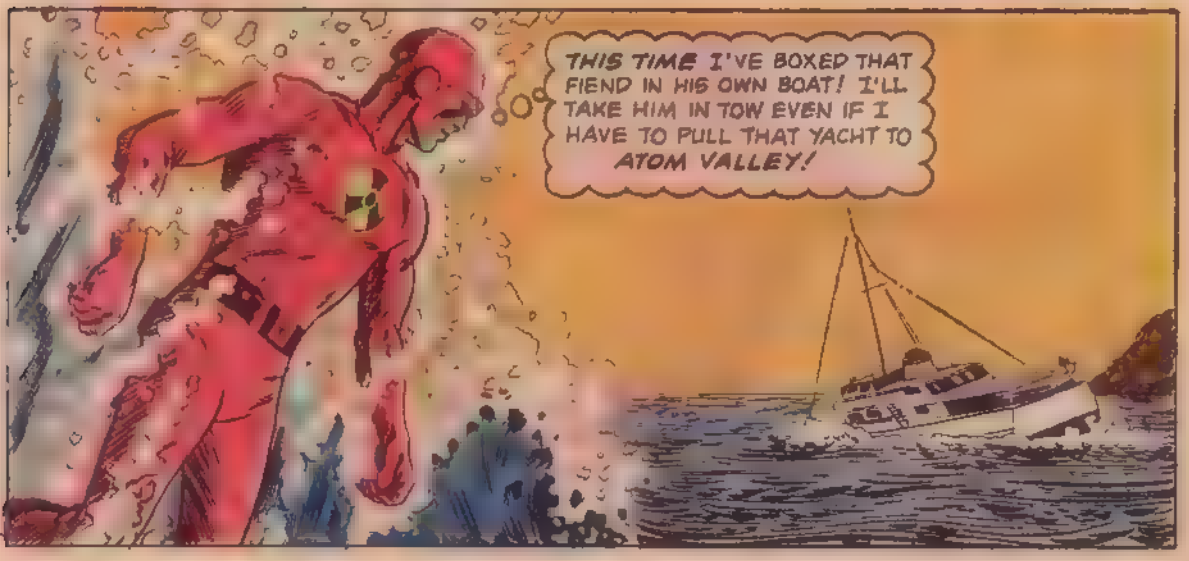

PANDEMONIUM FILLS NURO'S MIND-SMASHING LAIR AS SOLAR "TORCHES" DR CLARKSON FREE
STOP HIM, ORUN! YOU RE NOT HUMAN.. HE CAN'T SCARE YOU AND HE CAN'T MELT YOU DOWN WHILE HE'S HELPING HIS FRIEND! IT WOULD KILL CLARKSON!
STEADY, STEADY, DOCTOR . I'LL HAVE YOU OUT FAST .. AND WE'VE GOT TO MOVE QUICKLY TO PULL THIS OFF!

QUICKLY, POWERFULLY, ORUN CLOSES IN ON THE MAN OF THE ATOM...
KILL!
NURO'S RIGHT... I CAN'T RADIATE NUCLEAR HEAT WITHOUT AFFECTING DR. CLARKSON ALSO...
THEN
...BUT PERHAPS I CAN SHORT-CIRCUIT THIS MECHANICAL CHARACTER WITH A COSMIC RAY!
SPFFT!
THEN, AS ORUN HAS A "NERVOUS BREAKDOWN..."
SPUTTER!
SPUTTER
WHAM
SPUTTER!
AWWK!
AWWK!
FIZZ!
QUICKLY, SOLAR RACES FOR THE CELL DOOR AS
SEE! SEE, NURO--I TOLD YOU! YOUR IRON FLUNKY FLUNKED!
SILENCE! FOLLOW THEM!
AND A MOMENT LATER, AS UZBEK PEERS INTO THE DETENTION CELL
NU-NURO! HE'S MELTED THE CELL DOOR OPEN AND BURROWED A TUNNEL INTO THE EARTH... HE'S TAKEN THE GIRL, THE SCIENTIST, AND CLARKSON WITH HIM!

TH THAT ATOMIC FIREBALL HAS BEATEN US AGAIN! EVACUATE THE BRAINWASHING PLANT AT ONCE! ACTIVATE ESCAPE PLAN T!
WHILE OUTSIDE..
YOU ARE SAFE.. BUT I'LL HAVE TO RETURN FAST!
WHILE I'M RUNNING DOWN NURO'S HIDE-OUT, CONTACT ALL SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE ACTED ODD... VANISHED MYSTERIOUSLY FOR A SPELL!
RIGHT! WE'LL "DISARM" THEM! REMOVE NURO'S CONTROL RINGS AT ONCE!
AND AS THE MAN OF THE ATOM RETURNS TO THE NEAMOUS LAIR...
ABANDONED! AND THEY'VE TAKEN ALL THE EQUIPMENT THEY COULD GRAB WITH THEM! WHAT'S THAT?
VANADIUM STEEL! OBVIOUSLY BLOCKING A TUNNEL ESCAPE HATCH! IT WILL TAKE ME PRECIOUS TIME TO MELT THROUGH SUCH STRENGTH... I HAVE A BETTER WAY!


A SCANT MOMENT LATER, SOLAR PENETRATES THE EARTH WITH RADAR VISION AND...
NURO HASN'T MISSED AN ANGLE A PNEUMATIC TUBE WITH BUILT-IN RAILS TO CARRY A HIGH-SPEED VEHICLE...HEADS TOWARD THE SEA...

THEN
OF COURSE! THAT WOULD BE HIS YACHT WAITING SAFELY OUT OF REACH IN THE HARBOR ..AND HIS PEOPLE MUST ALREADY BE ABOARD!


THIS TIME I'VE BOXED THAT FIEND IN HIS OWN BOAT! I'LL TAKE HIM IN TOW EVEN IF I HAVE TO PULL THAT YACHT TO ATOM VALLEY!

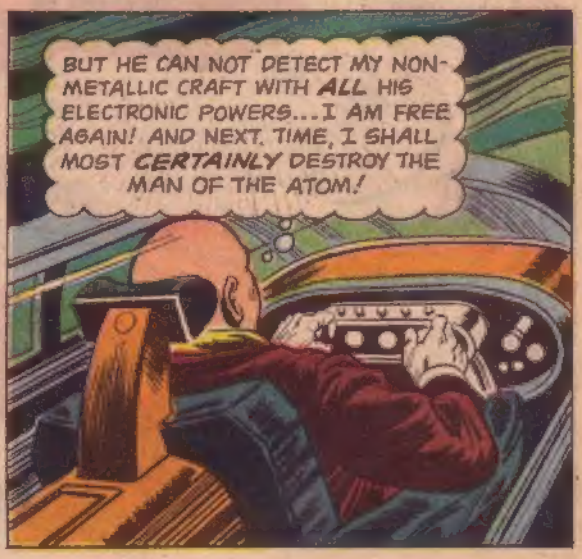
AT TWICE THE SPEED OF SOUND, SOLAR PLUMMETS INTO THE DEPTHS...
AN AMPHIBIOUS CRAFT! HE MUST BE TRYING TO ESCAPE IN THE JET-PROPELLED NOSE SECTION... VERY TRICKY, NURO!
BUT THIS TIME YOU'RE A LOSER... NOTHING'S GOING TO SHAKE ME OFF OF YOUR TRACK!
SUDDENLY, THE OCEAN ERUPTS BEFORE THE ON-RUSHING MAN OF THE ATOM...
KA-BLOM!
SO-SOMETHING WENT WRONG!...THE SHIP EXPLODED!

IN A GEYSER OF DEBRIS, SOLAR IS HURLED FROM THE OCEAN DEEP...
H-HE MUST HAVE OVERSTRAINED HIS JETS... SHORT-CIRCUITED THE CONTROLS... AND DETONATED THE EXPLOSIVES HE HAD ABOARD!

THEN, AS SOLAR RETURNS BELOW TO INVESTIGATE...
NOBODY COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT CRASH... NOT EVEN NURO!

HIS HENCHMEN ESCAPED IN THE OTHER SECTION OF THE SHIP WHILE I WAS TRACKING NURO! BUT WITHOUT THEIR MASTER... THEY'RE NOTHING! IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE... THAT, AT LONG LAST, MANKIND'S GREATEST FOE IS... GONE!

BUT AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT, MILES AT SEA, A SHADOWY FIGURE RACES FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY...
AGAINST THE MAN OF THE ATOM ONE CAN NEVER BE TOO CAREFUL! HAD I NOT HAD MY PLASTIC TORPEDO IN REGERVE, HE MIGHT WELL HAVE DEFEATED ME!


BUT HE CAN NOT DETECT MY NON-METALLIC CRAFT WITH ALL HIS ELECTRONIC POWERS... I AM FREE AGAIN! AND NEXT TIME, I SHALL MOST CERTAINLY DESTROY THE MAN OF THE ATOM!

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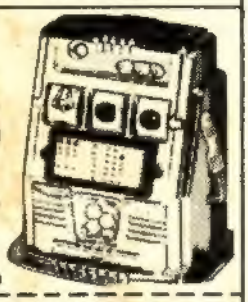
JACK POT BANK



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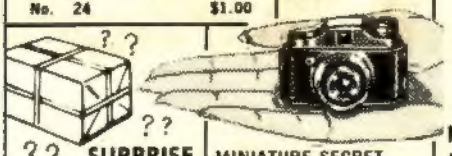

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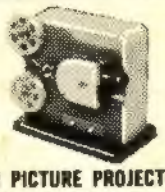

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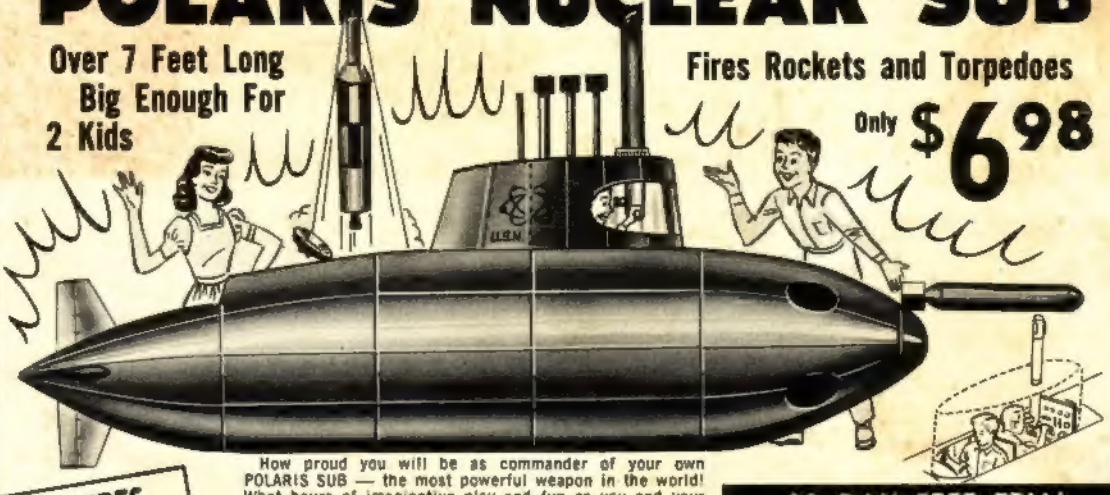

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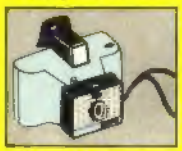
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